

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A recombinant human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1), wherein the natural signal sequence (NSS) of the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein gp120 of the virus is replaced with a an essentially non-cytolytic signal sequence selected from the group consisting of mellitin signal sequence (MSS) and interleukin 3 signal sequence (ILSS).

Claims 2-5 (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The recombinant HIV-1 according to any one of claims 1-5 The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.
7. (currently amended) The recombinant HIV-1 according to The HIV-1 of claim 6 wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.

Claims 8-30 (canceled)

31. (new) The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the MSS is shown as SEQ ID NO 9.
32. (new) The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the ILSS is shown as SEQ ID NO 10.
33. (new) The HIV-1 of claim 31 wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.
34. (new) The HIV-1 of claim 32 wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.
35. (new) The HIV-1 of claim 33 wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.
36. (new) The HIV-1 of claim 33 wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.
37. (new) A vaccine comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim 33.
38. (new) A vaccine comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim 34.
39. (new) A vaccine comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim 35.
40. (new) A vaccine comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim 36.